



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 169**

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6684

*House of Representatives, March 23, 2015*

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. SERRA of the 33rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The Commissioner of Housing  
2       shall, within available appropriations, conduct a study of the provision  
3       of emergency backup power at public housing for the elderly in the  
4       state. For purposes of this section, "public housing for the elderly"  
5       means any building where fifty per cent or more of the units are rented  
6       to persons sixty-two years of age and older under any program created  
7       or financed pursuant to chapter 128 of the general statutes.

8       (b) The study shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An inventory of  
9       public housing for the elderly in each municipality that includes (A)  
10      the total number of housing units for the elderly in each municipality,  
11      (B) the location of each housing unit, and (C) the type of each housing  
12      unit; (2) plans for the provision of emergency backup power at public  
13      housing for the elderly; (3) recommendations for the provision of  
14      emergency backup power at public housing for the elderly; and (4) the

15 estimated cost to provide such emergency backup power at public  
16 housing for the elderly.

17 (c) Not later than January 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Housing  
18 shall, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
19 statutes, report to the joint standing committees of the General  
20 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, housing and  
21 public safety concerning the results of the study and recommendations  
22 for the funding and provision of emergency backup power at public  
23 housing for the elderly.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (a), "the" was added before "units" and in Subsec. (b)(1)(C), "each" was added before "housing", and in Subsec. (b)(2), "each such building housing the elderly" was replaced with "public housing for the elderly", and in Subsec. (b)(3) and (4) "each such building" was deleted and replaced with "public housing for the elderly" for clarity and internal consistency.

**AGE** Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 16 \$	FY 17 \$
Department of Housing	GF - Potential Cost	Up to 100,000	None

**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Housing (DOH) to conduct a study on emergency power needs at certain public housing for the elderly within available appropriations. However, if the bill were to be implemented the one-time cost to DOH would be up to \$100,000 in FY 16. This estimate is based on a recent study conducted by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority on the capital needs of the 14,000 units in the state-sponsored housing portfolio, which cost approximately \$1.0 million.

This study is estimated to impact approximately 90 owners/housing authorities who are responsible for approximately 200 projects, with more than 1,000 buildings in total.

The cost may be mitigated to the extent that DOH coordinates this study with local housing authorities and other government agencies. Local housing authorities may have information on (1) the number of elderly housing facilities in their municipality and (2) the emergency power needs of these housing facilities which could be utilized by DOH in this study.

**The Out Years**

The bill requires DOH to report the results of the study to the committees of cognizance by January 1, 2016. There is therefore no fiscal impact beyond FY 16.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6684**

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NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10      Nay 3      (03/05/2015)